

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*We thank you for your patience as we work to provide answers to your questions.  
This list of FAQs will continue to be updated as answers are obtained.*

Updated versions will be illustrated by date: [April 29, 2021](#)

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### **SCHOOL**

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#### **Why is the school closing?**

Amid the current COVID pandemic, with its severe impact on the finances of many families, and the serious fiscal burdens St. Joseph High School has experienced during the past several years, as well as our steadily declining school enrollment (*SJHS went from an enrollment of 743 students in 2010 to 180 in 2021*), our Board of Directors has reluctantly made the recommendation to the Christian Brothers to cease operation of St. Joseph High School at the conclusion of the current academic year.

#### **What about the recent success in raising funds?**

The Christian Brothers, who sponsor St. Joseph High School, lent SJHS \$1,790,000 at zero interest, gifted \$125,000 for the current school year, have donated in-kind services including but not limited to professionals from Lewis University, who they also sponsor.

Additionally, a remarkable group of SJHS and IHM alumni volunteered to help raise additional development revenue from approximately \$500,000 annually to over \$1,100,000 annually during the last two years.

However, with the further declines in enrollment, required maintenance, etc., the development revenue would need to be have been doubled again to more than \$2,000,000 for the next school year (2021/2022). This objective was not considered realistic and if not obtained, would have resulted in a mid-year closure (2021/2022), which would have been more disruptive for the school community, most significantly our students and their families.

#### **When will the school officially close? Who do we contact after it closes?**

School operations will conclude at the end of this academic year. The exact date of closing has not been confirmed yet, but further information will follow.

Please call 708-562-4433 until further notice.

## **What will happen to the current students?**

All of SJHS's current students will need to register and be accepted by the high school of their choice. The registration process varies from school to school.

If a current SJHS student is accepted at one of the other four Lasallian High Schools in the Chicago-land area, the Christian Brothers have agreed to close the tuition gap between St. Joseph High School's current tuition and the tuition charged by the other Lasallian High School. The other Lasallian High Schools are: St. Patrick High School,

Resurrection College Prep High School, De La Salle Institute and Montini Catholic High School.

St. Joseph High School hosted a High School Fair on Tuesday, April 20 where over 24 area high schools attended to meet with our current students and families.

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## **DEVELOPMENT**

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### **What will happen to the St. Joseph High Schools and land/property?**

St. Joseph High School, Inc. is the sole owner of both properties. The property and buildings are up for sale to satisfy a large mortgage.

The property is currently co-listed for sale through two commercial real estate brokerage firms, Anne Dempsey (Direct: 847-989-8359) Collier's International and Andrew Polivka (Direct: 630-564-0017) The Polivka Group LLC. There are currently no real estate contracts on the property.

St. Joseph High School is working closely with the Village of Westchester to find an interested buyer for the property.

### **Why do you need money if the school is closing?**

The school's fiscal year concludes on June 30, 2021. The 2020-2021 school budget responsibilities such as mortgage payments, payroll, property insurance and property maintenance still have to be met. School activities are still underway - spirit week, junior ring ceremony, national honor society induction, sports games, graduation, senior junior prom, just to name a few. Teachers, coaches, and administrators are still employed and working to finish the year strong.

### **Is the Super Raffle still happening?**

Yes, all existing fundraising initiatives that occur in the school's fiscal year (*July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021*) are still happening. The 2020-2021 budget requirements are still in effect and need to be satisfied. Fundraising will continue to be a focus as we conclude this school year.

[SUPER RAFFLE ticket are available for purchase here](#). Next Early Bird Drawing for the chance to win \$500 is **Wednesday, May 5**. Early bird winners are put back into the final drawing on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> for the chance to win the \$10,000 Grand Prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of \$2,500, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of \$1,000. \$100/ticket.

## **EVENTS**

### **Will there be a farewell celebration?**

Yes. We intend to host a farewell gathering, but planning will not begin until the conclusion of the current academic year. More details to follow.

### **Is the Ides of March Concert that was rescheduled for May 22, 2021 still happening?**

No. This event has been cancelled.

### **Is the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing that was scheduled for Friday, July 30, 2021 still happening?**

No. Due to attendance concerns, dining restrictions due to COVID, and a limited staff, the outing has been cancelled. For further information, please contact Tony Quattrochi at [tquattrochi@stjoeshs.org](mailto:tquattrochi@stjoeshs.org) or at 708.562.4433, ext. 119.

### **Will there be a Mama Ping / Sandy Kas / Gene Pingatore Memorial Outing this year?**

The Pingatore/Kasprzak/Crispo Family may wish to continue the Mama Ping Memorial Golf Outing; however, it will no longer be sponsored by St. Joseph High School. More information will be shared once the family decides how they would like to move forward.

## **MEMORABILIA**

### **Where will all the school and student memorabilia go?**

We are in the process of taking inventory of these items. A substantial portion of the SJHS memorabilia will be archived and preserved. Limited items will be included in an online auction in late summer. Further details will be provided as gathered. For additional information, please contact Tony Quattrochi at 708.562.4433, ext. 119.

To acquire a copy of a lost yearbook, contact John McAuliffe at 708.562.443, ext., 166.

Our primary focus at SJHS is helping our students end the year as strong as possible including all activities, then graduating our seniors and helping our non-senior students transition to their new schools.

### **Are there old St. Joseph HS yearbooks still available?**

Yes. There are a limited number of books available for each class. Donations will be requested. Please contact John McAuliffe, Director of Finance at [jmcauliffe@stjoeshs.org](mailto:jmcauliffe@stjoeshs.org) for more information.

### **Are there any old IHM yearbooks available?**

No. Unfortunately, we do not have any IHM yearbooks.

### **Will equipment and furniture be for sale?**

Yes. Further information will follow.

### **What are they doing with the floor in the North Gym?**

Further information will follow.

## **ALUMNI CONNECTION**

### **Can I obtain a contact list of my classmates?**

Due to privacy issues, we will not be sharing contact information with classmates.

We encourage those on social media to make connections before the school sponsored sites are turned off. The date is TBD.

### **Will there be an opportunity for alumni to keep in touch through a group?**

The school-managed social media pages (see list below) will be disabled. The date is TBD. Members of the St. Joseph High School Community can create group pages, but those are managed solely by the group creator(s) and are not sponsored, supported, or approved by St. Joseph High School.

#### Facebook Pages

- [St. Joseph High School](#)
- [St. Joseph – IHM Alumni & Friend Network](#)

#### Twitter

### **Do you have Charger spirit wear for sale?**

We have a limited supply. Please stop by school Monday - Friday from 9:30 am – 12 pm. After Memorial Day (5/31/21), please stop by school Monday – Wednesday from 9:30 am – 12 pm until supplies runs out.

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## **STUDENTS**

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### **Can I take my device? Do I need to have it reimaged before taking it?**

Yes, you own your device. Immediately following your final exam, you will have the option of turning in your device to be professionally checked and reset back to the manufacturer settings (reimaged). If students choose not to have their device reimaged there will be a date when the device products (Microsoft) will cease to function.

### **How will I obtain my 2020-2021 school yearbook?**

A letter will go out when the books are ready (estimated for late July/early August). If you are unable to pick up your book we can mail it to you for a \$20 fee.

### **Where will I be able to obtain my transcript from?**

St. Joseph records will be maintained at SJHS until further notice.

You can obtain more information about this process by visiting the [Transcript/Permanent Records Request](http://www.stjoeshs.org) page on the school's website ([www.stjoeshs.org](http://www.stjoeshs.org)).

St. Joseph High School does NOT have records for Immaculate Heart of Mary High School. All IHM records reside at the Archdiocese of Chicago at <https://archives.archchicago.org/request-a-record> or at (312) 534-4400.